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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ASEC OTRA BB XL
SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR TRAVEL TO BARBADOS AND
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

REF: WARD/GAUME EMAIL 01/30/06

¶1. AmEmbassy Bridgetown grants country clearance to LTG H Steven Blum, Chief National Guard Bureau (CNGB), Dr. John Finney, POLAD to Chief NGB, Major Joseph Reale, Executive Officer and Aide to the Chief NGB, Major Philip Johnson, National Guard Bureau-J5/IA SOUTHCOM Desk Chief and Mrs. Susan Blum, Spouse of Chief, National Guard Bureau for travel to Barbados February 02 - 04, 2006. The purpose of this mission is for LTG H Steven Blum to brief the State Partnership Program to Ambassador Kramer and USMILGRP Commander, CDR Peter Kilfoyle.

¶2. Understand Embassy assistance is required. Hotel and transportation arrangements will be coordinated through USMLO Barbados. Point of contact is CDR Peter Kilfoyle, Chief, Military Liaison Office, (246) 436-4950, ext ¶2300.

¶3. Entry requirements: A valid U.S passport is required to enter Barbados. No Visa is required if your stay is under six months, including those travelers arriving with diplomatic or official passports.

¶4. Departure tax for Barbados is \$25.00 BDS or \$15.00 USD.

¶5. The following is general information pertaining to security and health considerations throughout the Eastern Caribbean:

Security

In the Eastern Caribbean, foot travel outside of well-established tourist areas is not generally recommended, especially at night. Be vigilant when using public telephones or ATM facilities near roadsides or quiet areas. As in many U.S. metropolitan areas, wearing expensive jewelry, carrying expensive objects, or carrying large amounts of cash should be avoided. Visitors should also safeguard valuables while at the beach. While hotels are generally safe, many visitors have experienced loss of unattended items. Hotel burglaries are not uncommon and all valuables should be locked in room safes if possible.

Health information

Throughout the Eastern Caribbean, the most likely threat to a visitor's health is sunburn. It takes several weeks to become accustomed to the heat and humidity. Prolonged exposure to the sun, without protection, causes sunburn, and may ultimately result in sun-damaged skin or even skin cancer. Sunscreens should be used for protection. In Barbados, St. Lucia and St. Vincent, the major health threat is dengue

fever, transmitted by the aedes aegypti mosquito. Dengue cases are most often seen in the summer months. Persons should therefore protect themselves with insect repellent. There is also a growing number of HIV/AIDS cases reported. The Eastern Caribbean enjoys clean and safe drinking water. Only routine boosters for immunizations (i.e. tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and oral polio vaccine) are required when traveling to this region. Barbados has the best medical facilities of all the islands in the region and most of the medical specialties have practitioners here.

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